

The Advocate

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ATTENTION, OLD SOLDIERS.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE:

I would like to ask through the columns of your paper a favor of each of the old soldiers who were present at the convention that nominated W. A. Harris for congressman at large, and that seconded his nomination. The favor that I would ask is, that they would send me a brief history of their army life. How long they served, how many engagements they took part in, etc. My reasons for making this request will be made known through THE ADVOCATE later on, but will say at this time that I wish to refute a statement made in Cuba by a prominent Republican of Washington county concerning the nomination of Mr. Harris. It is a very good plan to take some of the statements of these patriotic Republicans, these guardians of our American institutions, and use them for campaign purposes.

F. T. BAKER.
Cuba, Kansas.

COUNTY UNIFORMITY OF TEXT BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE:

I have been deeply interested in reading the discussions in THE ADVOCATE on the school book question, especially your review of Mrs. Stiteler's annual circular, and wish respectfully to dissent from some of your arguments. Do not think for a moment that I shall try to uphold the American Book company, or any other trust, for my affections are not centered upon them any more than are yours; but some of your propositions seem erroneous to me, and I ask the indulgence of an expression on the subject. You say, "It may be stated, first, that school book publishers sell their books to individual districts as cheap as to entire counties." The statement will not apply to this county, at least. Before the adoption of county uniformity we paid 25 cents more for the same histories, grammars, physiologies and arithmetics, than we now pay; 10 to 35 cents more for readers; 10 cents more for spellers, and other books in proportion. Remember, this difference is on exactly the same books. At that time the publishers furnished a few districts only; now they supply the whole county. County uniformity has accomplished a saving of at least 25 per cent. on the cost of text books in this county.

You regard her statement that "No two school districts in the county have just the same books" as an exaggeration, because, you say, as there are over 100 districts in the county it would require "fifty different kinds of each text book." I believe you are mistaken. Suppose they have but five complete series of text

books, we find by applying a well-known mathematical rule that the five series would be capable of 120 different combinations, thus showing that with five complete series of books a different series may be given to each of 120 districts.

You say such a step is ill-advised, because the next legislature will be sure to take action on the matter, which would make still another change necessary.

concerned, superintendents cannot be blamed for pinning but little faith to it, for they have been agitating the subject for a number of years without any encouraging results, and have about decided that relief must come through their own efforts, if it come at all. Let us have legislative relief, by all means, but let us help ourselves in the meantime.

There are several other points in your

AT HOMESTEAD.

The Labor Trouble Results in the Shooting of Manager Frick.

Matters at Homestead remained comparatively quiet during last week until Saturday, when the public was startled by the news that H. C. Frick had been assailed in his office and seriously wounded by a young man who afterward gave his name and address as Alex Bergman, New York.

The dispatches state that about 2 o'clock p. m. Bergman entered Frick's private office in Pittsburg. He had been a frequent visitor there during the past few days. Mr. Frick and a partner, Mr. Leishman, were in the office together when Bergman approached Frick, and, drawing a pistol, fired at him. The first cartridge did not explode, but the second did, and the bullet entered the back of the manager's neck. He tried to escape, but the assailant fired again and effected another wound in the neck. Mr. Leishman then caught Bergman, who drew a knife and attempted to stab him, when Frick came between them and received two knife wounds in the left side about the ribs and hip. At this point others entered the room, and Bergman was captured and taken to jail.

The assassin says he is a Russian Jew, 26 years old, and is a compositor on a New York paper. He came to Pittsburg for the purpose of killing Frick. When asked why he wanted to kill him he replied, "You know why." At the jail the officers noticed that the prisoner had something in his mouth, and forced him to disgorge a dynamite cartridge, which it is supposed he carried for the purpose of suiciding. Reports from New York say he is a member of an anarchist society.

The surgeons attending Mr. Frick think he will soon recover. The locked and striking workmen deplore the crime, and say they know it will hurt their cause. They seem to have known nothing of Bergman's intention. The news created a profound sensation all over the country.

A young private named Iams, who was in the militia camp at Homestead when the news of the Frick shooting came, shouted, "Three cheers for the assassin!" and Capt. Stroeter, of Company K, had him strung up by the thumbs for half an hour as punishment. When released he was exhausted and unconscious. After he recovered one side of his head was shaved, and he was drummed out of camp with a suit of cast-off clothing instead of a uniform. This incident shows something of the sentiment among the militiamen, as well as the brutality of the officers. The "brave" captain will probably hear from the Pennsylvania law on the subject of martial punishment.



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Would it? I think not. The statutes of the state delegate to counties the right to adopt a uniform series of books for a period of five years, and also the right to make a contract for their supply. After the contract has been made, can the legislature nullify it? Surely not, without impairing the obligation of contracts. It seems to me that the only way in which the contract could be nullified would be by inserting a clause to that effect in case of legislative action, or by the mutual agreement of the parties interested. As far as legislative action is

article that I would like to notice, but do not wish to be too verbose. I would be glad to see a continuation of the discussion, for it is only by constant agitation of the subject that we may hope for anything from the legislature.

If any of my statements are illogical, puncture them, and let all that is said on the subject be in the interest of truth and economy. Yours very respectfully,

O. B. FLEMING,

County Superintendent Ottawa County.
Minneapolis, Kan., July 21, 1892.